

REMARKS

After entry of this response, Claims 1-8, 12, 13, 18-21, 32-34, and 39-40 remain pending in the present application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration by the Examiner in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-8, 12, 13, 18-21, 32-34, and 39-40 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Norris et al. (U.S. 6,669,631, hereinafter "Norris"), in view of Bahl et al. (U.S. 6,834,341, hereinafter "Bahl"). Applicant respectfully traverses.

The Norris reference is disqualified as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §103(c). The present application and the Norris reference were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, owned by Medtronic, Inc. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-8, 12, 13, 18-21, 32-34, and 39-40 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Norris, in view of Bahl.

The double-patenting rejection of Claims 1-7 in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/828,545 is noted. Upon the indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants will fully address the matter.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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